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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2009

The Board of Selectmen met in the Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room, Town Hall as scheduled with Thomas Alonzo, Paula Bertram, Steven M. deBettencourt, Thomas Mason, and Kerry Speidel, CAFO present; David Matthews was absent. Meeting opened at 7:01 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom congratulated the Guild Dancers for their 29 years of entertainment. Both he and his wife attended their last performance on Saturday evening and Tom wanted to give his best wishes to the dancers, performers and everyone involved and especially to the Brown family for many years of enjoyment.

The School Regionalization Committee members Milree Keeling, Jane Hall and Anthony Caiozzo met in the High School Auditorium to present the draft agreement between the Towns of Ayer, Lunenburg and Shirley and the potential effect regionalization would have on the communities. The presentation was very well attended and lasted for more than three hours with questions and answers from the audience. The meeting was recorded and will be replayed on the Lunenburg Access Channel at a later date. It will be voted on at the Special Town Meeting in the fall so everyone is encouraged to watch so they can make an informed decision when it is time to vote.

Paula said that special legislation on the revision of the Charter was heard today and the timeline is for the end of the summer or early fall. It would then go before the Annual Town Meeting for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Band concerts will be starting again on June 29th @ 7:15 PM at the Roger Gilchrest Bandstand on the lower common. They will run for four consecutive weeks with a rain date of the July 28th.

APPOINTMENTS - *none*

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. CAFO Updates –

- **Grant** - received a grant through Homeland Security for one light tower and one portable sign board. Tried to trade the light tower for another portable sign board but were unsuccessful. Looking for additional grant money to get another portable sign board to have at each major intersection in town.
- **PEC Committee** - quarterly meeting tomorrow with PEC (Public Employee Committee) looking for a new provider for prescription drug coverage and have discussed going through the Federal Government's Medicare Part D. This would save the town tens of thousands of dollars, and would have a minimal impact on the retirees. This can be implemented any time during the year.
- **Historical Commission** – meeting with them on Monday, June 22nd at 7:00 PM. Members took a tour of the Jones House and will report on the conditions and a plan of action for potentially doing something with it.
- **Town Hall Renovations** - meeting with Architect Pat Slattery on Thursday to go over a few ideas on reorganizing the different departments in town hall. Have solicited comments from different departments regarding their needs. Building is very challenging and there isn't a whole lot of money to work with, however, there is a little money left from the sale of the old Chiefs House.
- **Ice Storm** - meeting with staff regarding ice storm post mortem and will prepare a report for the Selectmen to review. Will have report at the July 14th meeting.
- **Debris Clean-up** – work over the last week was removal of the hangers and tree removal. Twenty trees in the North Cemetery were cut down and a tree was removed that toppled into Marshall Pond. There will be four crews working every day until 5:30 PM including Saturdays. Chestnut Street was mentioned last week as being completed and that was an error, there is still debris on the road. Tom was asked by a resident why the trees were cut in North Cemetery as they weren't rotted and were pretty sizeable trees.

2. **Minutes** – *none signed*
Warrants- W #68 09 (06/16/09) \$547,761.31 & #W #67 09 (06/10/09) VO #589088 - \$348,914.00 **signed**
Contracts - *none*
3. **Action File Issues**-
 - * in reviewing the payables, Paula requested that a summary be included with the bills for legal services. Realizing that a lot of it is confidential and cannot be included she stated that a summary would be helpful as she is uncomfortable signing when she doesn't know what we are being billed for.
 - * the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) are conducting the annual FY 2010 grant round for the state LAND and PARC Grant Program. The filing deadline is 3:00 PM on Wednesday July 15th. Paula wanted to make sure that both the Conservation Commission and Park Department were aware of this grant.
4. **Summer Schedule** – Selectmen's summer schedule was set for every other week; July the 14th & 21st and two weeks in August, the 4th & 18th. On the off weeks they will hold workshops as needed in order to catch up on a lot of matters that need attention.
5. **CAFO Evaluation** – *tabled until next week*

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Committee Updates** – *none*
2. **U.S.D.A. Contract Negotiations** – *tabled from last week, question on financing* – Kerry clarified some of the terms of financing for the loan. Under the terms of letters of condition from USDA, first funding for the water and wastewater projects is to come from a loan from USDA. This means that the loan is closed at the point when the Town has spent monies at least equaling the amount of the loan commitment from the USDA. Until the loan is closed, no grant funding can be released by the USDA. While the plans may have called for 75% loan funding and 25% grant funding, none of the grant funding can be accessed until the loan is closed. Board voted unanimously that the sale of the following 4.375 percent bond of the Town dated June 23, 2009 in the amount of \$1,711,000 **Sewer Bond** payable in annual installments presenting both principal and interest of \$93,162.00 on June 23 in each of the years 2010 through 2046, and \$93,087.07 in the year 2047; and the sale of the following 4.375 percent bond of the Town dated June 23, 2009 in the amount of \$1,153,000 **Water Bond** payable in annual installments representing both principal and interest of \$62,779.00 on June 23 in each of the years 2010 through 2046 and \$62,778.58 in the year 2047 to the United States of America acting through the Rural Utilities Service, USDA, at par and accrued interest is hereby confirmed.
3. **Eagle Heights Agreement, JJHUL & Associates, LLC** – *tabled*
4. **Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan** – after Kerry met with representatives from M.R.P.C. she had a meeting with Marion Benson; Planning Director, Scott Glenny; Fire Chief; and Jack Rodriquez; DPW Director to discuss a pre-disaster mitigation plan. Kerry presented to the Selectmen a list of the goals, objectives and strategies which are to be included in the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM). (**attached**) Paula questioned the buffer zone under the Goal Statement for Flooding and suggested checking with the Conservation Commission.
5. **Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) with Lunenburg Water District** – Tom Mason moved to accept the inter-municipal agreement with the Lunenburg Water District and Steve seconded; Tom A.; yes, Paula; yes, Steve; yes, and Tom Mason; yes, voted unanimously.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS, REAPPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. **Vacancies** – Tom read the list of vacancies and Paula noted that the Sewer Commissioners had two prospects that they would be interviewing at their meeting tomorrow evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. **Labor Negotiations** – *tabled until next week*

Being no further business the Board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda H. Douglas, Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen**